



**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 4, 2019 / 6:00 pm**

- **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01 PM
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL:** Martell, Spanjers, Bissen, Pfiffner, Walsh
- **ACTION TO CHANGE AGENDA:** Martell requested to add Acentek Bill

**1. Consent Agenda:** Pfiffner motion with the addition of Acentek Bill, Second Bissen, Unanimous

*All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.*

1.1 Minutes:  
May 7, 2019

1.2 Bills Payable Through: May 31, 2019

1.3 Consolidated Balance Sheet May 31, 2019 (none)

**2. Water/Waste Water/City Engineer Report:**

2.1 Water Improvements through Rural Development Construction Grant: Vetch provided some information regarding the water improvements that need to be made to the City's facilities. He also provided a proposal from Davy Engineering to prepare a preliminary report for the water system which would cost \$16,500. There are grants available for the study; however, the City's median income is too high to qualify. Vetch noted the importance of the improvements to the water systems as his license is at stake. The last time the facilities were evaluated was in the 1970's. If the City would like to apply for any grants to support the improvements, we would be required to have Davy Engineering perform the study. The City could only expect 20-30% in grant support. Martell made a motion to table a decision and asked Vetsch to research the cost of upgrades, Second Spanjers, Unanimous

3. **Library/City Hall/City Center Report:** Spanjers provided an update for the library with a list of events coming up. They will have Siamas Music SELCO Vetted Performer on June 20<sup>th</sup> in the City Park at 6pm.

4. **Police Dept./City Attorney Report:** No update

**5. Streets / Maintenance Report:**

5.1 One Ton Quote: Vetsch provided the Council with some pricing information to purchase a truck to replace the City Maintenance truck. The Council reviewed the quotes from Sleepy Hollow for a 2018 Ram 5500 and from Sugar Loaf for a 2019 Ford F350. The Council also discussed the value of our truck and if it should be traded in, or if it should be sold. There is \$10,000 included in the 2019 budget for the purchase of a new truck. The Council noted the importance of having a reliable truck to maintain the roads for the safety of the community. Spanjers made a motion to purchase the Ram 5500 and to trade in City truck if the dealer would offer \$10,000 or more. Martell Second. Unanimous. Martell would contact Mid America to see if we could extend the lease to 7 years.

5.2 Alley off Birch Street Repairs: Vetsch presented 2 different options provided by Jim Kachie to repair the alley. The first option is to dig a drain, the second is to install a lift station which is considerably more expensive. Vetsch quoted \$1,000 for equipment/supplies. Vetsch suggested rather than adding a new meter, they would tunnel under 4<sup>th</sup> street and hook the power to the Park bathrooms. Walsh made a motion to move forward with the first option to dig a drain. Martell Second. Unanimous.

6. **Recreation Board Report:** Bissen requested the pipe for pool be extended as the pipe is currently plugged.

**7. Planning Commission / Zoning Report:**

7.1 Minnesota Basic Code: Vetsch discussed the Minnesota Basic code as there are some properties in town that may be concerning and the MN Basic code provides guidelines to address the issues. The Basic code can also hold the City to stricter requirements which can make things more difficult and increase costs. Martell mentioned that the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities could have some information. The City decided to table the discussion.

7.2 Pfiffner provided the minutes from the Zoning/Commission Committee and noted the committees need for more information on the plan for the sign. There was also a concern on the location of the

sign as the city ordinance provides restrictions on the distance of the sign to the intersection. The Council decided to hold off on moving forward with the lease on the sign, and pursue fundraising options. Pfiffner also noted a variance is needed for the garage addition related to the Joe Martin Zoning Application. The council will address the variance after the resident has filed a variance request.

**8. New Business:**

- 8.1** Houston County Drop-Off Site Improvements: Houston County has complaints regarding the condition of the road that leads to the drop-off site. They had planned to have a representative attend the Council meeting and discuss their concerns for upgrades and they possibly mentioned a cost share. They did not have a representative present at the meeting so the Council decided there was no issue to discuss.

**9. Old Business:**

- 9.1** 305 Main Street Water Lines: Vetsch provided an update and noted that the City had installed a water line to the residence back when they made the water updates in the 80's. The resident is able to connect to the line.
- 9.2** Flood Insurance: Clerk Martell noted a change to the proposed rates for the Old Sewer Plant building. The previous quote was \$4,693 and is now \$1,411. The Council had voted to cancel coverage at the meeting held on May 7<sup>th</sup> and they decided even with the change, they would still cancel coverage. Clerk Martell also provided the Flood Insurance policy for the new Sewer building which includes a \$758 premium for \$121,000 coverage on the building and \$50,400 on the contents. She also noted the premium was only up \$3 from the prior year. Martell Motion to continue the current coverage, Second Pfiffner, Unanimous.
- 9.3** Curb Stop Policy/Ordinance: No update from Skip Weiser, table for future meeting.
- 9.4** Bluff Country Learning Center: The Bluff Country Learning Center met with Superintendents and it was decided that they wanted to combine all of their programs together at one location which would require a larger facility. They have decided that at this time they will not be renting the upper level of the City Center.
- 9.5** Veterans Park Monument: Kim Kirchoff provided an update on the Veterans Park Monument. They currently have raised over \$6,300 and they have \$1,800 remaining. Martell made a motion that the city would cover the balance after all fundraising was completed at the end of the summer of 2019. Second Spanjers, Unanimous.
- 9.6** Digital Sign Lease: The Council decided we would not move forward at this time with the lease of the digital sign.
- 9.7** Mosquito Abatement: Clerk Martell discussed the Mosquito Control used in the past with a program through La Crosse County. This program is no longer offered outside of La Crosse County but they did recommend Joey Writz from Driftless Region Vector Control. The pricing options were provided to the council and after discussion the Council decided not to move forward.

**10. Council Member's Comments/Community Input:**

Community:

Martell:

Spanjers:

Bissen: Expressed a concern for the hole near the Humfelds. The property is the responsibility of the state but due to the danger it presents, the Council asked to have the fence installed around the hole.

Pfiffner:

Walsh: Discussed the Xcel Energy bill adjustment to the Tas-tee Shoppe. Clerk Martell has contacted Xcel Energy and they stated they would not be able to split the meters. Martell will follow up with Xcel to see if there are other options. Walsh tried to discuss the cleanup down by the falls with the adjoining land owner and he would not agree to the cleanup. Martell will be looking to see if he can find the land survey from a previous project. Mayor Walsh was not able to get in contact with the Baseball Coach.

**11. Mayor's Comments:** Meet the Mayor – May 15

- 12. Staff Correspondence:** Clerk Martell noted that the City Financial Auditors came on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> to perform their fieldwork. The auditors noted that the Audit went very well and they should be completed 2 weeks following their fieldwork. They will then present the Financial Statements and we will need to file before the Council's next meeting. Clerk Martell also noted that the City office would be closed June 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> as she would be attending the LMC Clerks Conference.
- 13. Correspondence Received:** None
- 14. Announcements:** None
- 15. Next Council Meeting:** July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019
- 16. Items for next Agenda:** Water Improvements, MN Basic Code, Curb Stop Policy
- 17. Adjournment:** Motion Bissen, Second Pfiffner, Unanimous. 8:02 PM